

To Chairman Genachowski and whomever this may concern at the FCC,

As noted in previous public comment filings I've made to this Net Neutrality docket on the need to preserve the open Internet and other dockets concerning broadband market practices and an inquiry into the National Broadband Plan I've made numerous filings over time to share with the FCC my opinions and expand upon earlier opinions I've shared by updating my opinion and re-filing with the FCC.

I have addressed the U.S.'s Digital Divide and global competitiveness, the need for competitive, affordable broadband services which the current market lacks. I have addressed issues concerning abusive anti consumer and anti competitive practices by the incumbent big cable and phone duopoly ISPs. I have addressed the news media's lack of attention to moral value issues like The Digital Divide, income inequality etc in America while claiming to support moral values.

I have even written on the need for Net Neutrality in relation to commerce, preserving the free flow of information on the Web and protecting telecommunication online.

I submit that when former President George W. Bush entered office in January 2001 there was no Digital Divide. In fact the U.S. was ranked 4th in the world at the time in terms of broadband Internet penetration. Now we are falling behind the rest of the world not just in offering faster speeds but in deployment and adoption of high speed Internet. The former President's deregulatory policies have caused us to slip behind the rest of the world in broadband deployment and adoption. By deregulating broadband allowing the market to become a duopoly the Bush Administration failed in promoting universal broadband access and also failed us in protecting us as Internet users and consumers from monopolistic and abusive incumbent ISPs.

We need more rural broadband deployment and adoption to become possible. To do that we need more competition in the broadband market not less. Meaning Comcast NBC Universal and mergers like Qwest Century Link are harmful to consumers and should be opposed.

Even if Qwest Century Link merger is to proceed as noted in an earlier comment I made Qwest should be forced to spinoff their existing subsidiaries to ensure there is still sufficient competition after a merger.

We need the FCC to protect users. Do that first by protecting your authority to do so after the unfortunate Appeals Court ruling in Comcast v. FCC by reclassifying broadband as a telecommunications service. Also by doing so you can protect your authority to implement your new National Broadband Plan, but ensure no data used in the Plan is flawed. Go back and update the data as needed.

Reform the Universal Service Fund, mandate competition, mandate line sharing etc, ban low bandwidth caps cable company ISPs want to impose on users etc and prevent them from subsidizing their digital cable TV businesses losing some customers by bundling it in unfair ways with their Internet business. Forcing their Internet customers to bundle with digital cable TV if they want to use video sharing sites like YouTube or Hulu etc is not just wrong its illegal under Net Neutrality.

I know the incumbents will fight back but users need to be protected online from ISP discrimination. Keep in mind President Barack Obama was elected President with the help of grassroots organizers and activists campaigning online. Put a people powered Internet first.

As the U.S. abandoned its regulatory commitment during the Bush years to broadband other countries maintained theirs and have outpaced us. We have fallen behind the countries that continued regulating broadband which is why other countries are ahead of us in offering universal broadband, and why we have a Digital Divide. Its ironic that the former Clinton Gore Administration's FCC actually crafted a National Broadband Plan that the Bush Cheney FCC inherited but chose not to implement and just ignored it.

Writing a plan is one thing it has to be implemented. As such seeking public comments on Net Neutrality and Open Internet are one thing but the FCC has to act on policy recommendations. If you speak but don't act it doesn't make any difference. Inaction helps no one but the incumbents. It is time for the FCC to act responsibly in the public interest. Hold corporations accountable and prevent corporate gatekeepers from developing on the Web.

Other countries have more competitive broadband markets and don't need Net Neutrality rules. In the EU one European Commissioner responded last year to the FCC seeking public comment to protect Net Neutrality by saying Net Neutrality is better in Europe. They don't even need Net Neutrality regulations by government to protect Internet users. They could afford to deregulate broadband slightly if they wanted as their market is way more competitive than ours.

They wouldn't deregulate it too much to allow the massive consolidation among broadband providers that happened during the Bush Cheney years but could easily do some slight deregulation to encourage more business investment, more commercial opportunities and as such can encourage more competition.

Slight deregulation in Europe can encourage more innovation for European Internet users but even then there's plenty more innovation , competition and affordability by ISPs there already than we have in the U.S.

So please support increased re-regulation of broadband and protect Net Neutrality. Protect your authority to regulate and in so doing then protect Internet users. When we refer to the Digital Divide in this country people caught on the wrong side of the Digital Divide often are people of color, people in rural areas with low income etc. Minorities in low income communities who cannot afford broadband at the high rates ISPs are charging (in fact they are raising existing rates further still) are being left on the wrong side of the Digital Divide. Closing the Digital Divide can help create hundreds of thousands or even millions of new jobs this at a time when the U.S. Economy coming out of recession is suffering from what seems to be a jobless recovery.